

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA
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September 16, 2003

Last year, the Departments of Public Social Services and Mental Health collaborated with the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority to conduct a small, six-month pilot to assist 27 homeless CalWORKs families in the Skid Row area find permanent housing and provide supportive services. The project was a great success. All of the families found housing, 12% of them found jobs, and the impact on their children was enormous. The children began going to school and most attended counseling with their parents. As a whole, the project had a significant impact on the well-being of families.

Today DPSS, DMH and LAHSA are working collaboratively again to assist homeless CalWORKs families. Recognizing funding is limited, as public officials we are obligated, if only for small projects, to reach out and do as much as we can to move mothers and children off the streets into safe, permanent housing.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

While we need to continue our efforts on Skid Row where the numbers of homeless families are increasing, we must also recognize that there are other areas of the County where homelessness is increasing. DPSS, DMH and LAHSA will conduct two small projects, involving 20 families each, in both the Skid Row and San Gabriel Valley may have a over 2700 homeless families.

If the pilot is successful and funding is available, this model involving outreach, intervention/crisis counseling, public assistance, mental health services, and multi-disciplinary case management, could be implemented Countywide.

While no additional funding is needed by DPSS or DMH to conduct this pilot project, LAHSA has indicated additional funding is needed to conduct its outreach and provide transportation, intervention and crisis counseling. DPSS has indicated it has sufficient funding within its budget to cover these allowable costs. DPSS currently has a contract with LAHSA to administer the Homeless Assistance Program which, if supplemented, could be used as the vehicle to fund LAHSA's services. DMH will support this project within its current CalWORKS mental health allocation. It will amend existing CalWORKS mental health contracts to cover the additional services and assign additional resources to directly operate programs.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors;

1. Delegate to the DPSS director the authority to amend Contract #74180 with LAHSA effective 10/1/03 and increase the maximum contract amount by no more than \$190,000 to cover these additional services for October 2003 to June 2004.
2. Instruct DMH, in consultation with DPSS, to identify one or more current CalWorks

mental health contractors to participate in the San Gabriel Valley pilot. The identified contractor(s) shall have expertise in working with members of the target populations. After the identification of the contractor(s), the DMH Director shall be given the authority to amend existing contracts to cover additional services for October 2003 through June 2004.

3. Direct DMH, LAHSA and DPSS to create and implement an evaluation plan which includes performance measures and outcomes to determine the effectiveness of such programs in addressing the plight of homeless families.

LO/jh